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"American Trade and Diplomatic Policy"

Glasgow Chamber of Commerce - February 16, 1962

The interdependence between economic and political policy is all too often ignored. The strength of the West obviously derives, in large part, from its industrial and financial force and potential. The Communist bloc possesses the advantage of being able to direct the energies of its countries to agreed international ends. But the production and purchasing power of the United States and Western Europe is more than twice that of the Sino-Soviet complex.

In population and territory, the West is inferior to the Communist controlled territories. Yet it is almost inconceivable that in industrial terms it can be overtaken, within whatever is meant by a reasonable time, by its determined adversaries.

There is no ground for complacency in this respect. Indeed, the weakness of the West lies in its lack of cohesion. Richer by far than our opponents, we are plagued by problems of trade, payments, monetary reserves, tariff preferences, exchange controls, ~~flights of currency~~, rapid shifts of gold, speculation against stability, and by many other ills.

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Often, we seem so divided in purpose, so lacking in imagination, as to invite disaster, we preach that our economic system, varying, of course, from country to country, but everywhere one of comparatively free enterprise as contrasted with that of the Communist bloc, is superior to theirs. At the same time, we present the spectacle, in the name of that system, of ~~a freedom~~ engaging in to discriminate against our own deepest interests.

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